

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing tissue cells, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining pluripotent stem cells by selectively culturing iris pigment epithelial cells by a floated coagulated mass culturing technique, the iris pigmented epithelial cells being isolated from an eyeball of an animal; and

obtaining tissue cells from the pluripotent stem cells by differentiating the pluripotent stem cells into one or more types of tissue cells by culturing the pluripotent stem cells under differentiation inducing conditions.

2. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the animal is a chicken, a mouse, a rat, or a human.

3. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the animal is a postnatal individual animal.

4. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the pluripotent stem cells are Oct-3/4 positive and/ or tridermic differentiable.

5. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the isolating of the iris pigmented epithelial cells includes:

an iris-tissue-extirpating step of extirpating iris tissue from the eyeball of the animal; and

an iris-pigmented-epithelial-cell-separating step of separating iris pigmented epithelium from the iris tissue thus extirpated.

6. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the iris-tissue-extirpating step includes:

an iris-tissue-excising stage of excising only iris tissue from the eyeball of the animal;

an enzyme treatment stage of subjecting the excised iris tissue to enzyme treatment; and

an iris-tissue-restoring stage of restoring, by using a culture medium containing serum, the iris tissue weakened by the enzyme-treated iris tissue treatment

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 7~~1~~, wherein the culturing under the differentiation inducing condition is conducted with serum.

9. (original) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the serum is fetal calf serum or avian serum.

10. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein, in the culturing under the differentiation inducing condition, a growth factor is further used.

11. (original) The method according to Claim 10, wherein the growth factor is EGF or FGF.

12-14. (withdrawn)

15. (new) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the tissue cells are myocardial cells.

16. (new) A method for producing an embryoid body, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining stem cells by selectively culturing iris pigmented epithelial cells by a floated coagulated mass culturing technique, the iris pigmented epithelial cells being isolated from an eyeball of an animal; and

obtaining an embryoid body from the stem cells by culturing the stem cells with serum.